(a) whether it is a fact that in Rajasthan illegal mining beyond allotted boundary is rampant with scant regard to safety norms, turning the mines into deathtraps where a tragedy is waiting to happen;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are 55 mines on a seven kilometer stretch, parallel to the Makrana-Parbatsar railway line and over the years several mine owners have gone beyond their demarcated limit right under the railway tracks and even beyond them; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that safety norms are implemented by miners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Some instances of illegal mining have come to the notice of State Government.

(b) As per information furnished by Ministry of Labour, there are 52 mines along the Makrana-Parbatsar broad gauge railway line where mining has been done beyond mines boundary endangering the railway line.

(c) the railway line has been abandoned and there is no railway traffic now. Orders prohibiting employment under Section 22(3) of the Mines Act, 1952 have already been issued in respect of these mines.

Amendments to MMRD Act

65. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Orissa alongwith CMs of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand met the Hon'ble Prime Minister and submitted a memorandum on behalf of five States including Karnataka and Rajasthan on the proposed amendments to the MMDR Act, and if so, the details thereof:;

(b) whether Government have considered the concerns of the State Governments of these major mining States and if so the details of the points accepted; and

(c) The reasons for not accepting some of the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) The Chief Ministers in their memorandum have

inter-alia raised issues of giving preference to value adders in grant of mineral concession, grant of large areas under reconnaissance and prospecting licence, export of iron ore concerns, reservation of mining areas for State PSUs and royalty rates on *ad valorem* basis on minerals.

(b) and (c) The issues raised in the memorandum are under consideration of the Government.

Reservation for Dalit Muslims

†66. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some policy has been formulated for reservation of Dalit-Muslims in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the area covered under this provision of reservation and extent thereof; and

(c) if the policy has not yet been formulated, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities has been set up to recommend measures for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections amongst religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and Government employment.

Socio-economic condition of minorities

67. MISS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to conduct or to set up any Committee to study the social-economic condition of minorities other than the Muslims, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Tribals in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh suffer dual disadvantage of being minority; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.